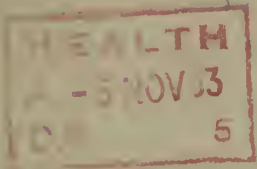


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LANGPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1952.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. A.M. McCall

Sanitary Inspectors

H.F. Binder

A.C.N. Gully to April, 1952

R.H. Badge from April, 1952.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Langport Rural District
Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1952.

There were mild epidemics of Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox in the early part of the year, towards the close the number of cases of pneumonia increased mainly among the aged due to the mist and fog which was prevalent at that time.

The Health Services continued to function satisfactorily with the exception of the School Dental Service which is still almost non-existent in this area. I would draw attention to the excellent support given by Langport to the Blood Transfusion Service.

1952 was a record year in which more houses were erected and in course of construction and is tangible evidence of the determination of the Langport Rural District Council to improve the living conditions of persons residing in the area.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

A. M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The Registrar General gives the estimated population for Langport for the mid year 1952 as 12,710, slightly less than last year. Main statistics are shown in Appendix A, Table 1.

Birth Rate The Birth Rate of 15.7 per thousand is a slight increase on last year and when the comparability factor (which allows for age differences in the population) is taken into account the figure of 16.7 compares very favourably with 15.3 for England and Wales as a whole.

Death Rate The Death Rate of 12.7 per thousand is lower than last year and when the comparability factor is taken into account gives a corrected figure of 10.2 which is below the figure of 11.3 for England and Wales as a whole. Once again Heart Disease proved to be the greatest killer but there was a relative increase in the number of deaths from Cancer. There was also some increase in deaths from Respiratory diseases, due no doubt, to the fogs during the latter part of the year.

Infant Mortality Only three deaths of children under 1 year occurred during the period under review. Two of these were due to congenital malformation. This is an extremely low and satisfactory figure. The figure for England and Wales as a whole was 27.6 per thousand, the lowest ever recorded.

Maternal Mortality I am pleased to be able to state once again that there were no cases of maternal death during the year.

1952 was the Jubilee Year of the First Midwives Act of 1902. At that time there were 138 deaths for every 1,000 live births. Now the figure is 27.6. Credit for the steady progress made should be given to doctors, midwives, nurses, scientists and to the mothers themselves. However, there is no cause for complacency because there are countries which are still ahead of us in this field.

Social Conditions The Social Services remained unchanged during the year and unemployment remained at a low level.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Maternity Services

The responsibility for the maternity services in the area falls upon the County Council but the work is mainly carried out by the general practitioners and district nurses who attend all cases during pregnancy. No official ante natal clinics are held but these examinations are carried out by private doctors and nurses. Some of the latter hold unofficial clinics in their own houses. Cases where the home conditions or previous obstetric history require admission to hospital are usually admitted to Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. All home confinements are attended by the district nurses and appropriate private medical practitioner.

Health Visitors

Two health visitors work in the area. They attend all school

medical inspections and are responsible for following up any defects found there and any cases referred to them by hospital clinics. They also act as Tuberculosis Health Visitors and regularly visit all cases on the Register.

Domiciliary Nursing

District Nurses are responsible for domiciliary nursing in the area. They really do a very great amount of work and Appendix B, Table 1 will show how many visits they made to homes for different purposes during the period under review.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Curry Rivel This is the largest clinic in the area and here there has been a considerable improvement in the numbers attending during the year. Despite the fact that transport for mothers living in outlying areas was discontinued due to lack of support from villages visited, yet the total number attending has increased and Miss Cowdell, the Secretary, and her Committee are to be congratulated on this satisfactory report.

Langport The Infant Welfare Clinic which was opened at Langport in 1951 made steady progress as the details shown will testify.

Kingsdon No official clinic is held here but the district nurse holds an unofficial weighing session and hopes that in the near future transport will be provided for the mothers to attend the Infant Welfare Clinic at Ilchester.

Compton Dundon and Littleton Transport is provided for mothers living in this area to attend the Infant Welfare Clinic at Street twice a month.

Aller The District Nurse holds an unofficial weighing session here each month.

Details of the Curry Rivel and Langport clinics are shown in Appendix B, Table 2.

Immunisation

Pre-school children are mainly immunised by private practitioners, some are done by the school medical officer when he visits the village schools to do school children. The response has been satisfactory and the percentage immunised in the area remains at a high level.

Vaccination

The number of children being vaccinated each year is still too few. Vaccination is a requirement of the fighting services, most boarding schools and for travel abroad so that sooner or later most people are vaccinated. It should be realised that the effects of vaccination are very much smaller in the very young and the habit of parents to put off vaccination until a later age is short sighted.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service is administered by the County Council. The area organiser in charge of the Langport district visits each household requesting help and assesses the need and type of work to be done. A suitable worker is then provided. It has been invaluable in times of confinement and illness.

School Medical Service

The medical inspection of school children in the area is the responsibility of the County Education Committee. I and an assistant medical officer divide the work, I being responsible for the schools in the southern part of the rural district. Details of the inspections I carried out can be seen in Appendix B, Table 3. The health of the children has been very good and on no occasion was it found necessary to close a school during 1952.

Ophthalmic Services

All school children have their eyes examined during the routine school medical inspection and any with defects are referred to the County Occulist. These are seen by appointment at either Taunton or in Huish Episcopi Secondary Modern School and suitable treatment is prescribed. There was no delay in obtaining glasses during the year. I must point out to parents that to obtain full value from this service they should co-operate with the doctors who take the trouble to examine their children and prescribe glasses, by seeing that the instructions as to the wearing of spectacles are meticulously carried out. There are a minority of children who, although required to wear glasses constantly, frequently do not wear them or perhaps restrict wearing them to lesson time.

Orthopaedic Services

Orthopaedic Clinics were held in Yeovil and Taunton. Use is made of the Yeovil swimming bath on Saturday mornings to allow all children who have been affected with Infantile Paralysis to receive modern treatment in the baths and they are encouraged to take up swimming. When seen by the surgeon at one of the above clinics a copy of his report is sent to the School Medical Officer to ensure that the instructions are fully carried out at school as well as at home. Where midday rest is prescribed day beds are provided for the children.

National Assistance Act

In no case was it found necessary to use statutory powers to obtain the removal to hospital of persons in need of care and attention.

Ambulance

The ambulance which until last year was stationed in Langport, is now housed at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton and all requests for its use have to be forwarded there.

Blood Transfusion Service

I was pleased to note that in the Annual Report of the Blood Donor Session organised by the British Red Cross Society in Somerset, the Langport Division was specially congratulated. In view of its scattered area and limited population it surpassed anything else in the County. Tribute was also paid to firms who kindly permitted teams to visit their premises. It cannot be too highly stressed that new donors will always be welcome. Enrolment Forms can be obtained from the British Red Cross Society, Territorial Hall, Taunton.

SECTION C

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

Summary of notifications will be found in Appendix C, Table 1.

There was a mild epidemic of Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox was prevalent during the first half of the year. The cases of pneumonia were mainly confined to the last six months when the mist and fog affected the older members of the community. There were three cases of Infantile Paralysis all of whom were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Taunton. There were fewer cases of Tuberculosis than in the previous year. B.C.G. inoculation is available under the County scheme for all those in whose work the hazards of Tuberculosis are greater. These include nurses, medical students and susceptible contacts.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions The weather was again extremely wet during the year but there was slightly more sun than in the previous one. Fortunately there was no severe flooding in the area in 1952.

Water Supply The quality of the water was satisfactory throughout the year. However, there were shortages in the higher parts of Curry Rivel particularly during peak hours. Shortages occur frequently as the demand exceeds the capacity of the mains, thus affecting the high parts of the Western Parishes. Arrangements for the Chard R.D.C. to provide more water have been included in their new scheme. Regular sampling was done throughout the year details of which can be seen in Appendix D, Table 1. The new mains to the Parish of High Ham, being part of the Eastern Parishes Scheme were sterilised and brought into use, thus making a piped supply available in the parish for the first time. A connection was made to the Long Sutton supply from the Eastern Parishes Scheme for augmentation purposes during the summer period and as a result no restrictions were imposed in the Parish. Good progress was made towards the supplying of main water to the parish of Compton Dundon. This parish will undoubtedly be on the main supply in 1953. When the Eastern Parishes Scheme is completed the parishes of Charlton Mackrell, Barton St. David, Kingweston, Keinton Mandeville and Babcary will all be supplied with main water.

Drainage and Sewage The only parishes in the area with the main drainage and disposal systems are Somerton, Curry Rivel and Kingsbury Episcopi. An outline scheme was prepared for the approval of the County Council prior to its submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, for the disposal of sewage in Langport. This scheme has been approved by the County Council and I hope that by the time of my next report the work will have commenced. Appendix D, Table 2 shows the closet accommodation for the Rural District. A large number of conversions were made in Somerton when connections were made to the sewage extension scheme completed in 1951.

Camping Sites There is one camping site licensed in the area. This is for a maximum of 12 chalets on a 4½ acre field. It is mainly for seasonal occupation.

Public Cleansing Refuse removal is done by direct labour, three parishes being visited weekly, four fortnightly and eighteen once per month. Apart from occasional difficulties due to public holidays, the service has worked well. Paper collection was started during the year. Although the price received for baled paper was high at the beginning of the year it declined sharply and towards the end proved uneconomic.

Factories Act Details of the inspections can be seen in Appendix D, Table 3.

B. Housing

1952 was a record year and 56 houses were erected in the area during that time. In addition there were 42 in the course of erection and tenders for 26 more were approved. Despite a total of 252 completed since the war there has been very little appreciable lessening in the number of applicants on the waiting list.

C Inspection and Supervision of Food

Meat There is one slaughter house in the area where horses are slaughtered for human consumption. This is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. A small quantity of meat was condemned and also some tinned food supplies were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Milk There are five registered distributors and three registered dairy premises in the area. Appendix D, Table 5 shows the details of the routine samples taken.

Ice Cream No ice cream is manufactured in the area but there are 30 registered premises where pre-packed ice cream is sold. All samples taken were found to be satisfactory.

On 17th July, 1950 the Council adopted model Bye-Laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Routine inspections have been carried out but no action has been necessary under these Bye-Laws.

APPENDIX A TABLE 1

Registrar General's estimate of population			
mid 1952	.....	.....	12,710
Area	.....	.....	57,122 acres
Number of inhabited houses at the end of			
1952 according to the Rate Book.....			4,098
Rateable Value	.....	.....	£50,550
Sum represented by a penny rate	.....		£214. 9s. 9d.

APPENDIX A TABLE 2

BIRTH RATE		M	F
Live Births	Total	106	93
	Legitimate	99	91
	Illegitimate	7	2
Still Births	Total	4	1
	Legitimate	4	1
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 year	Total	3	-
	Legitimate	3	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	Total	2	-
	Legitimate	2	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Birth Rate 15.7 per thousand		Comparability Factor 16.7	

APPENDIX A TABLE 3

TABLE OF DEATHS	Total	M	F
	162	79	83
Death Rate 12.7 per thousand		Comparability Factor 10.2	

<u>Causes of Death</u>	Total	M	F
Heart Disease	56	26	30
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	33	13	20
Cancer (all forms)	33	18	15
Tuberculosis	4	4	-
Diabetes	3	1	2
Respiratory Diseases (other than T.B.)	15	6	9
Congenital malfor- mations	2	2	-
Accidents	5	1	4
Suicide	1	1	-
Other Diseases (ill defined)	10	7	3

APPENDIX B TABLE 1

Work of District Nurses during 1952

<u>District Nurse</u>	<u>Babies born at home</u>	<u>Babies born in hospital</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number of visits to homes</u>
Babcary	}	Report not received		
Barton St. David				
Charlton Adam				
Cary Fitzpaine				
Charlton Mackrell				
Keinton Mandeville				
Kingweston				
Lytes Cary				
High Ham	}	16	18	34
Huish Episcopi				
Langport				
Pitney				
Muchelney				
Curry Rivel	}	15	23	38
Drayton				
Earnshill				
Fivehead				
Hambridge				
Isle Abbotts				
Isle Brewers				
Swell				
Kingsdon		Report not received		
Long Sutton	}	11	23	34
Catsgore				
Somerton				
Barrington	}	Report not received		
Puckington				
Compton Dundon	}	2	4	6
Littleton				
Aller		Report not received		
Beercrocombe	}	4	1	5
Curry Mallet				

APPENDIX B TABLE 2

Langport Infant Welfare Clinic

1. Number of children who first attended during the year and who on the first attendance were:-

(a) Under 1 year of age ... 21 (b) Over 1 year of age ... 6

2. Number of children in attendance at the end of the year, who were then:-

(a) Under 1 year of age ... 17 (b) Over 1 year of age ... 47

3. Number of children who attend the Centre during the year:- ... 67
4. Total attendances during the year made by:-
 - (a) Children under 1 year ... 24 (b) Children over 1 year...111
 - (c) Mothers ... 216
5. Average attendances per session of :-
 - (a) Children under 1 year ... 10 (b) Children over 1 year... 9
 - (c) Mothers ... 18
6. Number of individual mothers who attended during the year..... 52
7. (a) Total number of sessions held:-
 - (i) With Medical Officer ... 12
 - (ii) Other sessions Nil
 - (b) Number of children examined by Doctor 43
 - (c) Total number of medical consultations163
8. Vaccinations Nil
9. Immunisations ... 6

Curry Rivel Infant Welfare Clinic

1. Number of children who first attended during the year and who on the first attendance were:-
 - (a) Under 1 year of age... 16 (b) Over 1 year of age... 2
2. Number of children in attendance at the end of the year, who were then:-
 - (a) Under 1 year of age... 13 (b) Over 1 year of age...26
3. Number of children who attended the Centre during the year... 47
4. Total attendances during the year made by:-
 - (a) Children under 1 year.. 114 (b) Children over 1 year.. 155
 - (c) Mothers... 194
5. Average attendances per session of:-
 - (a) Children under 1 year.. 80% (b) Children over 1 year.. 65%
 - (c) Mothers... 69%
6. Number of individual mothers who attended during the year...32
7. (a) Total number of sessions held:-
 - (i) With Medical Officer ... 12
 - (ii) Other sessions Nil
 - (b) Number of children examined by Doctor ... 46
 - (c) Total number of medical consultations ... 241

8. Vaccinations... 9

9. Immunisations.. 10

APPENDIX B TABLE 3

Name of School	No. on Roll	No. Inspected	No. Immunised	Date of Inspection	Date of last Dental Inspection	Children having milk	Children having dinners
Barrington	40 47	13 24	1	7.2.52 29.10.52	Jan. 1949	100% 100%	100% 100%
Curry Mallet	32 30	18 13	8	8.2.52 15.10.52	Dec. 1947	96.87% 96.66%	96.87% 90%
Drayton	23	13	3	8.2.52	Feb. 1949	91.30%	73.91%
Fivehead	18 19	13 16	3	13.2.52 16.10.52	Feb. 1949	100% 100%	100% 100%
Hambridge	39	10	15	13.2.52	Nov. 1949	97.43%	76.92%
Huish Episcopi Secondary Modern	309 379	77 102		15.7.52 19.11.52	Oct. 1949	80.90% 81.79%	72.81% 79.15%
Isle Abbotts	18 24	9 15	2	20.2.52 30.10.52	Feb. 1949	88.88% 100%	100% 91.66%
Kingsbury Episcopi	78 73	47 41	4	11.2.52 8.10.52	Feb. 1949	97.43% 92.60%	87.18% 86.30%
Muchelney	21 19.	14 9	1	22.2.52 29.10.52	Jan. 1950	95.23% 100%	100% 100%
Totals		<u>434</u>	<u>50</u>				

APPENDIX C TABLE 1

Infections Diseases

Measles	7
Scarlet Fever	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Dysentery	3
Whooping Cough	34
Acute Primary Pneumonia	16
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	3
Malaria	1
Chicken Pox	24

ANALYSIS OF CASES NOTIFIED

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65+ known	Un-
Measles		2		2	1	1				1			
Scarlet Fever					1	3							
Puerperal Pyrexia													1
Dysentery		1							2				
Whooping Cough	3	1	5	9	1	14	2						
Pneumonia			1			4		1	1	4	4	6	
Polio- myelitis					2				1				
Malaria										1			
Chicken Pox			1	1	2	11	6	1		2			

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15				1				
15 - 25		1						
25 - 35			1					
35 - 45				1				
45 - 55	2			1				
55 - 65					2			
65 +	1	1	1					
Unknown								
Totals	3	2	2	3	2	-	-	-

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

Water Supply

Piped Supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:

<u>Raw Water</u>				<u>Treated after going into supply</u>			
<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>		<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
38	10	5	-	23	-	1	-

Water Supplies from public mains:

<u>Direct to the Houses</u>		<u>By means of Standpipes</u>	
No. of Dwelling- houses	Population	No. of Dwelling- houses	Population
3097	9291	-	-

APPENDIX D TABLE 2

Closet Accommodation

Pail Closets ... 1,462 W.C.'s ... 2,513 Other ... 206
 No. of conversions to water carriage system during year ... 74

APPENDIX D TABLE 3

Factories Act 1937

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to Health
 (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	10	-	-
Total	<u>61</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Cases in which defects were found1
 Cases in which defects found were remedied.....1

Outwork

No. of outworkers in
 August List required by Section 110 114
 (Making wearing apparel)

APPENDIX D TABLE 4

Housing

	Houses erected during the year		Houses in course of erection		Conversion to Flats or dwellings		Temporary such as Army Huts, etc.	
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.
Local Authority	56	-	42	-	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise	21	-	17	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	<u>77</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Inclusive of those above built during the year

Total number of houses in District 4,098
 " " " " owned by Local Authority 659

By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
252	59	62	15

(a) No. of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken.....	661
(b) No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit.....	4
(c) No. of houses occupied under (a).....	658
(d) No. of houses occupied under (b).....	2
(e) No. of houses found overcrowded.....	10

Houses required

(i) To replace those unfit under (a).....	314
(ii) To replace those unfit under (b).....	2
(iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g. two families living in same house but not included in (i) or (ii).....	132

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of
the year..... 353

APPENDIX D TABLE 5

Milk Sampling

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested	41	30	11
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	71	70	1
Sterilised	-	-	-
Undesignated	-	-	-

Biological Sampling:-

No. Taken ... 36 Negative Results ... 34 Positive Results ... 2

